



## DPS “Green Tape” Program

As part of the County Executive's plan for the redevelopment of Silver Spring, the Silver Spring Business District has been designated a State of Maryland Enterprise Zone. This designation provides a number of incentives to attract and retain businesses in the Enterprise Zone (EZ).

As one of these incentives, the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) created a “Green Tape” permitting and inspection program to expedite the land-use and building-permit processes for prospective EZ businesses. This program is separate from the commercial “Fast Track” program in DPS which provides expedited permitting services for existing buildings where there is no change of use and no structural alteration.

The mission of the Green Tape Program is to facilitate the issuance of building permits for commercial construction in the EZ involving new construction, additions, structural alterations, or changes in use. The Green Tape Team, headed by a “Permit Technician” caseworker, assists an applicant with the various filing requirements, regulatory reviews, and inspections, including pre-design consultations and assessment inspections. The Permit Technician works with other Team members to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, a seamless permitting and inspection process. Technical staff on the Team include engineers, plans analysts, inspectors, and managers. These staff members have expertise in the areas of building, electrical, fire, mechanical, accessibility, zoning (including signs), sediment/stormwater management, and subdivision plan-review and inspection codes and standards.

The Green Tape Team works closely with the Silver Spring Regional Center (SSRC) to identify qualifying businesses and coordinate Green Tape services. DPS maintains information in its permits database which “flags” potential Green Tape properties to make it easier to notify SSRC about potential Green Tape customers.

For information about the Green Tape Program, contact Permit Technician Clare Fadden at (240) 777-6271, or Program Manager Bill Boyajy at (240) 777-6362. Questions about EZ incentives should be directed to Green Tape Zone Manager Melvin Tull of SSRC at 301 565-7366.